Major Generall *Laughorn's*

LETTER

TO THE

Honourable *William Lenthall* Esq;

Speaker of the Honorable House of Commons.

VVherein is truly related the taking of *Carmarthen* Town and Castle, and the Reducing of that County to obedience of Parliament.

Together with the severall

Articles, Declarations and *Agreements*

BETWEEN

The Major and Gentry of that County.

ORdered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That this Letter, Articles, Directions, *and* Agreements, *be forthwith Printed and Published.*

H: Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

LONDON:

Printed for *Edward Husband*, Printer to the Honorable House of Commons, *Octob.* 28. 1645.

The Carrville Library

To the Honorable *William Lenthall* Esquire, Speaker to the Honorable House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker,

SInce the taking of *Pillon* Castle, and freeing the whole County of *Pembroke* from the power of the Enemy: The first action worthy your knowledge, God vouchsafed I should effect, was the taking of *Carmarthen* Town and Castle; it was performed this day; at nine of the clock in the morning, Fifteen hundred Clubmen of the County marched out at one Gate, and I entred at the other, the strength of the Club-men in all the adjacent Counties since their last Association; my endeavouring for Recruit in the best measure I could, and the unsetledness of the Commissioners of Array, and other of the Gentry of *Carmarthenshire*, in their Treaty for Peace with us lost me some time, might have been more usefull in Action: Their solicitations received birth before the taking of *Carew* Castle; but after their losse of *Pillon* I discerned more frequency and importunity in the prosecution: It were impertinent to rehearse all particular passages, the Copies of the Letters and conditions between us, with my Declaration sent herewith (observing the order of them) will manifest the effect of what I would signifie: their first Letter to me and the Committee, they sent to receive the Kings approbation before they conveyed it to us, and all they did passed (though privatly) by allowance of Major Generall *Stradling*, and *Lovelace* Governour of *Carmarthen*, that breeds my doubt they have yet rotten coares, and I shall try before I overmuch trust them: On *Friday* the Commissioners drew Fifteen hundred Clubmen into Town, and with the Townsmen undertook the defence, dismissing the Governour and his Souldiers: Our Forces lying then at Saint *Cleers*, six miles short of *Carmarthen*, staying for some Carriages that were not come up; the next day we appeared in severall bodies, Six hundred Horse and Dragoons and Two thousand Foot before the Town, and spent the evening in interchange of Parlyes, at eleven at night we concluded, and this morning put it in execution, some of the manifestly criminous deserted the Town, and fled with the Enemy, some Troopers and Captains daily fall in to us, and the Club-men in *Cardiganshire* resist the Enemy, detain their Contributions, and (in compliance with Colonell *Lewes*, who neglecteth no means to win them) as I here declare for King and Parliament. Our Horse shall advance to morrow to

ssist them, and in few dayes, I hope to give a very good accompt of the two Counties: *Glamorganshire* Gentlemen I desired (and I heard were ready) to appear upon the borders, to wait my actions against *Carmarthen*, if the surrender had not prevented them: The Town very spacious, but strongly Fortified, requiring no lesse then a thousand men in Garrison: If we could give pay we should not want men, and those we have with little encouragement, would deem no enterprize too hard: If it would please the State to afford some supply for money and clothing, I doubt not they should speedily reap the fruit of them. I restrain Plunder, and use the Country withall lenity; I shall not, I hope, repent it, or forget that I am, Sir

Carmarthen 12. *Octob.* 1645. *Your most humble Servant,*

ROWLAND LAUGHORNE.

The Copy of a Letter *from the Commissioners, and Gentry of the County of* Carmarthen, *to the Generall and Committee in* Pembrokeshire.

GEntlemen, We taking into consideration the unhappy effects that War (being continued) may produce between the county of *Pembroke*, and these neighbouring counties of *Carmarthen* and *Cardigan* and others; the unity whereof is requisite under many Relations, to the preservation of which you and we equally pretend, namely our Religion, Loyalty, and Laws, though we have been hitherto so unhappy, as to endeavour the preserving of these by destroying one another.

To prevent therefore the continuance of these miseries we have formerly felt, and the fears of worse that may ensue (if possibly it may be) and that we may move towards these ends, we severally professe to be the same, with better assurance of obtaining them, and more piety towards our selves; We conceive (that if your concurrence be had therein) that a Treaty between a certain number Commissioned out of these two Counties and yours, may produce a better effect to every of us, then the Hostility between us hath hitherto done, or (if continued) is like to do.

In order to this (if you approve thereof) you may name your number of persons, with the time and place where to give meeting, sending likewise your safe conduct for the proportionable number Commissioned out of these Counties, and the like shall be sent to you from this: Thus desiring your speedy Answer, we remain

Septemb. 5. 1645. Your Servants,

Ed: Vaughan.	*John Vaughan.*	*Rice Rudde.*
Jo: Vaughan.	*Iohn Vaughan.*	*Henry Middleton.*
Rowland Gwyn.	*George Gwyn.*	*Iohn Lewes.*
Robert Birt.	*John Harr.*	*Thomas Lloyde.*
Francis Lloyde.	*Carbery.*	

The

The Copy of the Answer from the Major Generall Laughorne *and the Committee to the Commissioners and Gentry of the severall Counties of* Carmarthen *and* Cardigan.

GEntlemen, Your Letter of the 5. of *Sept.* we received this 25. of the same, if your desires be answerable to your expressions for Peace, we shall upon what termes may be warrantable admit a Treaty, conditioned you make full Declaration of your obedience to the Authority of King and Parliament, and testifie your resolution therein, by present seizing, delivering to us, or deteining in your own power those scattered Horse of the Enemy yet in your Countrey, with these limitations, we hereby engage for the safety of any four gentlemen among you, (so they consist not of any Members that deserted the Parliament) to repair to this Town wi hin the next three daies, & to return with their necessary Attendants, & we shal be ready, upon your compliance, to protect the Common people, & such of the Gentry as we shall finde Capable of protection, and refer the exempted to superiour Iudicatures, In the interim, in suspence of our expectation; we are

Haverfordwest, 25. *Sept.* 1645. Your Servants

Rowland Laughorne, *Lewis Barlowe*, *Sampson Lort*.
Tho: Bowen, *Iohn Lort*, *Tho: Iones*.

The Copie of a Letter from the Commissioners of Carmarthenshire, *to Major Generall* Laughorne, *and the Committee.*

GEntlemen, expecting this day to have understood the full sence of the Inhabitants of this County, that thereby we might have been Armed with power to have treated as was in your Letter mentioned; you may understand the Countrey met not (as we expected) therefore we conceive our selves not in condition to send unto you according to our undertakings: This we thought fit to write unto you who are

October 2. 1645. Your humble Servants,

Rice Rudde. *Ed: Vaughan*. *Henry Middleton*.
Iohn Vaughan. *Iohn Vaughan*. *George Gwynne*.

SIr, we heare you are advanced into this County, which makes us send this bearer to receive your command which shall be performed by us, who professe and declare our selves to be for the King and Parliament, and will with the best assistance we can, aid you with our lives and fortunes, in any thing that may conduce to the Parliaments service,

Llangendyscen, Octob. 10. 1645. Sir, we are your humble Servants,
Edward Vaughan. *Iohn Vaughan*. *Henry Middleton*. *John Vaughan*.

For our Honoured friend Major Gen: *Laughorn* these.

Gentle-

[illegible] your good intentions, And for the better and sooner expediting the service intended, I wish two of you would give me the meeting at St. *Cleers* this night, where I am advanced with my whole Army, and shall be ready upon warrantable grounds, to doe you service,

St. *Cleeres October* 10. 1645. I am Gentlemen your servant,
Rowland Laughorne.

For his worthy friends, *Edward Vaughan* Knight, *Iohn Vaughan*, *Henry Middleton*, and *Iohn Vaughan*, Esq; these.

A Declaration to the Commissioners, Gentrie, and Inhabitants of Carmarthenshire, *set forth by Major Generall Laughorne, at* St. Cleeres *the* 10*th day of October*, 1645.

GEntlemen, although your credulity (to the greatest Instruments of your Ruine,) heretofore (to your deare experience) possessed you with an opinion, the King and Parliaments forces designed nothing lesse, then reducing you to obedience and settlement of your Peace, and I (with compunction) confesse at my last advance into these parts of your County, the licentiousnesse of my unpaid Souldiers, might adde some setlednes to that injurious conceit; I praise God and the Parliaments providence, my men upon the present advance, rest well satisfied with the pay they received, and are become liable to Discipline, of that I shall not forbeare the strictest execution upon apparant offenders.

My earnest wishes are, you will now at length be undeceived, and pretend not rescue of your Estates, to colour obstinate resistance of the Authority whereto you owe all you call yours, but make present submission to the power of King and Parliament, and joyne (against the common Enemy) with the Forces by their Commission under my conduct, whose principall endeavour it is, to assert your Religion, your Laws, your Liberties.

You so doing, in exchange of your imaginary feares, I tender my Reputation in the presence of Heaven and Earth (for gaining your confidence,) I will not dread to engage my life with my power and fortunes, in protection of your persons and Estates, as well against those of mine owne Command, as the notorious adversaries of our Religion, Liberties, Peace, and Prosperitie,

Rowland Laughorne.

SIr, we received your Letter, and rest your servants for the affection you expresse: Our late comming into Towne, prevents our waiting on you this night, we are 1500. men in Town, which are resolved for King and Parliament; to morrow four of us will not fail to wait on you, we desire you not

not to march till then. The Caſtle we have not as yet, but it is promiſed us to morrow; which with the hazard of our lives, we will defend and keep for the Parliament ſervice; Your Declaration ſhalbe publiſhed to the people, and if they declare not as we do, their forced obedience ſhall make them rue their obſtinacie: The particulars of our proceedings we referre to this bearers Relation, and Reſt

Carmarthen, 10 Octobr. 1645. Your Servants,

Edward Vaughan. John Vaughan. John Vaughan.
Charles Gwyn. Henry Midleton.

For our honoured Friend,
Major Gen. *Laughorne.*

IT is agreed by the Town and County of *Carmarthen*, and Major Gen. *Laughorne*, That the workes and all fortification about the Towne and Caſtle, be utterly demoliſhed, and all other Garriſons within the ſaid County.

It is likewiſe agreed, that no free quarter be impoſed upon the Inhabitants of the ſaid Towne and County, except one night upon a march, And that the Army may not march through the Towne.

It is deſired and agreed, that all other matters and buſineſſe of conſequence, may be referred to King and Parliament at Weſtminſter, And that all the Ammunition and Arms, within the ſaid Towne and County, may be left for their own defence and ſafety.

It is likewiſe agreed, that the Army march out of this County, within the ſpace of two dayes and two nights, next enſuing.

Theſe Articles being granted, the whole Inhabitants of the Towne and County, do declare themſelves for King and Parliament.

It is agreed, that no preſt men be required from the ſaid Towne and County, untill there be a generall preſſe within all the Aſſociated Counties adjacent.

It is alſo agreed, that the Covenant be not preſt on the Inhabitants of neither Towne nor County.

This was brought Without ſubſcriptions, and delivered Saturday evening, 11 Octob.

By { *Sir Edward Vaughan.* / *John Vaughan of Llanelly.* / *Thomas Williams.* } And { *Robert Toy,* / And / *George Joanes* } Of the Towne.

An Anſwer to the ſix particulars, deſired of me by the Towne and County of Carmarthen, *to obtaine their Declaration for King and Parliament.*

FOr the firſt, I ſhould agree to the demoliſhing of all the Garriſons in the County, ſo there might be other means for ſecuring the Countrey

and places of retreat upon neceſſary occaſions aſcertained.

To the ſecond, Souldiers cannot be maintained without free quarter, or Contributions for pay, and without men the Countrey cannot be defended.

To the third, by the rearm (King) it is not evident, whether the Kings perſonall reſidence at Weſtminſter be intended, and other matters of conſequence muſt be all the difference, for here nothing of moment is offered, and by circuit, we are where we begun.

To the fourth, the marching of the Army out of the County, and no other power ſetled, for its preſervation is inconſiſtent with my truſt.

To the fifth, the ſpeciall emergent occaſions may require preſt men here, when other places may be void of danger, and not poſitively to be granted.

To the ſixth, A profeſſion againſt the Covenant or willing declining of it, is an open profeſſion of enmity to King and Parliament, and the deſire of exemption manifeſteth the Treaty on that part to be illuſory, and ſuperficiall.

If upon my Declaration the Gates be opened, and the Towne delivered, I ſhall make good what I have undertaken; otherwiſe I ſhall leave the wealth of it, to the diſpoſe of the Souldier, and not make contracts for the price of their blood.

WEE whoſe names are ſubſcribed, in the name of our ſelves, and all the Inhabitants of this Towne and County, do abſolutely declare for King and Parliament, and will with our lives and fortunes, aſſiſt the forces raiſed by the Parliament againſt any other whatſoever as ſhall ſeek to invade theſe Countries, and do deſire to be received into King and Parliaments protection, according to the Declaration of Major Gen. *Laughorne*, and for Contribution we willingly ſubmit proportionably to our Neighbouring Counties, 11 *October*, 1645.

Tho. Griffith Mayor,
David Bevan.
Robert Lewes.
Thomas Woodford.
Robert Ioy. } vic. Com.
Iohn David. }
Iohn David.
Robert Brand.
Robert Griffith.
Richard Thomas.
Edward Iones.

Iohn Hughes.
Walter Chapman.
Edward Vaughan
Iohn Vaughan.
Henry Vaughan.
Henry Midleton.
George Gwyn.
Iohn Vaughan.
Iohn Harrys.
Thomas Williams.
Francis Howell.

Henry Vaughan.
Samuel Hughes.
Thomas Howell.
Iohn Auberry.
Anthony Morgan.
Iohn Gwyn.
Iohn Lloyd.
Edward Vaughan.
William Lloyd.
Iohn Newskay.

FINIS.